

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY STATUS REPORT # 7

Thursday, May 27, 2004

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Flooding continues throughout portions of Southern Michigan, although several rivers around the State crested yesterday and are now beginning to recede. Southern Michigan received a reprieve on Wednesday from heavy rains. Brief rain showers fell Tuesday, but the rainfall totals were less than .50 inch and did not exacerbate the flooding situation. According to the National Weather Service, there is a chance of thunderstorms today, and through the Memorial Day weekend.

As of 11:00 AM today, a total of 9 Michigan counties are still under Flood Warnings from the National Weather Service: Allegan, Barry, Bay, Clinton, Kent, Livingston, Ottawa, Saginaw, and Shiawassee. The Grand River remains a high area of concern, as floodwaters continue to rise above flood stage in Kent County and Ottawa County. River levels are expected to remain above flood stage in Comstock Park and Robinson Township until Monday.

The National Weather Service reports the following flood information for affected rivers and streams in Lower Michigan (as of 11:00 AM today):

River	Location	Current Level (Ft)	Flood Stage (Ft)	Expected Crest (Ft)	Date of Crest
Huron	Hamburg	8.1	6.5	Cresting	
Grand	Ionia	21.7	21.0	Has Crested	
Grand	Lowell	16.7	15.0	Has Crested	
Grand	Ada	21.3	20.0	Has Crested	
Grand	Comstock Park	16.6	12.0	Cresting	
Grand	Grand Rapids	19.5	18.0	Has Crested	
Grand	Robinson Twp	15.9	13.3	16.0	5/28
Kalamazoo	Fennville	12.1	12.0	Cresting	
Kalamazoo	Plainwell	4.4	4.0	Has Crested	
Thornapple	Hastings	8.6	7.0	Has Crested	
Thornapple	Caledonia	10.1	10	Has Crested	
Shiawassee	Owosso	7.1	7.0	Has Crested	
Shiawassee	Fergus	10.5	10	Has Crested	
Maple	Maple Rapids	9.3	9.0	Has Crested	
Cass	Frankenmuth	17.6	17	Has Crested	
Saginaw	Saginaw	19.6	19	Has Crested	

The cleanup process continues for areas with receding floodwaters. Damage assessment information and status updates are still being compiled by county offices and local jurisdictions affected by the severe storms and flooding. More detailed local and state agency status reports are now beginning to come into the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police (EMD/MSP). Additional reports are expected over the next few days.

LOCAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

All affected communities are taking appropriate local actions to respond to and recover from the flooding and severe storm damage. The following communities have declared a local “state of emergency,” pursuant to 390 PA of 1976, as amended (Michigan Emergency Management Act), as a result of the flooding or severe storm damage:

- Berrien County (storm damage)
- City of Dearborn Heights (flooding)
- Macomb County (flooding)
- Allen Park (flooding)
- City of Ionia (flooding)
- Ionia County (flooding)
- City of Ecorse (flooding)
- St. Joseph County (storm damage); however, this local declaration was later rescinded.
- Hamburg Township and Green Oak Township, Livingston County (flooding)
- Waterford Township, Oakland County (flooding)

STATE ACTIONS TAKEN:

Governor / Executive Office

Governor Granholm toured Macomb County’s flooded areas via motorcade on Tuesday afternoon. Executive staff from the Michigan State Police and Macomb County Emergency Management accompanied the Governor. The Governor held a press conference at Macomb Township Hall after the following the tour. Additionally, Lt. Governor Cherry toured flood-impacted areas in Ionia County today with involved local and state officials.

Emergency Management Division / Michigan Department of State Police

In response to this widespread situation, the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police (EMD/MSP) has partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Lansing and is actively monitoring ongoing response and recovery actions. Appropriate state agencies have been notified of the incident and are conducting their own investigations and assessments of the situation, in accordance with their assigned roles and responsibilities in the Michigan Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The EMD/MSP has begun to collect and compile damage and impact assessment data from affected local jurisdictions and involved state agencies and private sector organizations. These assessment activities will continue in the coming days as the State attempts to determine the scope, magnitude and severity of the flooding and storm damage.

Michigan Department of State

The Michigan Department of State issued an emergency exemption waiving International Registration Plan (IRP) and Michigan registration requirements for utility repair vehicles from the following agencies: Indianapolis Power and Light (Indianapolis, IN); Parr Electric (Kansas City, MO); Dillard Smith Electric (Knoxville, TN); Wisconsin Public (Green Bay, WI); Pike Electric (Knoxville, TN); and Wisconsin Public Service. These carriers are also exempt from displaying IFTA fuel decals and drivers hours of service rules in 49 CFR Part 395.

The emergency waiver allows for restoring power to Michigan residences and businesses that lost power in the May 21, 2004 storm. The emergency exemption waiver was approved through Wednesday, May 26, 2004.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources continues to assess damages and impacts to state parks and recreation areas in four affected southern Michigan districts. Two of the impacted districts provided extensive damage assessment reports as of 12:00 PM on Thursday morning.

Numerous Boating Access Sites (BAS) in the Plainwell District are either submerged and inaccessible or are experiencing little use due to high water and debris. District Offices are receiving many calls requesting the closure of BASs. The MDNR will not close BASs due to temporary high water.

All facilities at Bald Mountain Recreation Area are now open.

Powers Beach at Proud Lake Recreation Area in Oakland County (southwest of Pontiac) is now open after repairs were made to stabilize road damage.

Camp sites have been flooded at a number of state parks including Yankee Springs Recreation Area, Pinckney Recreation Area, Aloha State Park, Ionia State Recreation Area, Waterloo Recreation Area, Hoffmaster State Park, Warren Dunes State Park, Harrisville/Oscoda State Park, Mitchell State Park, Sleepy Hollow State Park, Leelanau State Park, Lakeport State Park, Sleeper State Park, Muskegon State Park, and South Higgins Lake State Park. In most cases, provisions have been made by the park managers to accommodate the anticipated number of campers.

The campground at the Bay City State Recreation Area is closed due to flooding and will not reopen until after the holiday weekend.

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth / Public Service Commission is collecting and compiling damage and impact assessment data from affected electric utilities, including Consumers Energy, Detroit Edison, and American Electric Power.

Michigan Department of Transportation

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is coordinating with local officials to monitor and assess the status of state and local highways and bridges in the affected areas.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

A representative from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/Dam Safety Unit, met with Ionia County officials to assess the status of the Lyons Dam, located in the City of Lyons, and the Webber Dam in Ionia County on the Grand River. The Webber Dam is functioning as designed for current conditions. There are no immediate concerns with the Lyons Dam and minor issues identified will be addressed when water levels recede. The MDEQ is also monitoring flood-related wastewater overflows in several communities in the affected area (see separate "Environmental Concerns" report below in the Damage and Impacts section).

Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

The Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (MOSA) is determining costs and needs in areas of the State with flood damage and storm damage. MOSA reports that there has been no interruption in their services, but they have incurred additional costs due to difficulty in delivering meals, providing additional meals and providing water to clients because of power outages. All agency offices within the affected areas have made contact with the local emergency coordinators and are providing assistance as requested.

Michigan Department of Community Health

The Michigan Department of Community Health continues to coordinate with affected MDCH regional offices to obtain status reports and estimates of additional costs incurred due to the flooding and storm damage.

Michigan Department of Agriculture

The MDA continues to check on the status of downed trees throughout the affected region to determine if any were ash trees that might have been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer pest.

Michigan Family Independence Agency

Through Wednesday, May 26, the Berrien County FIA Office has processed 2,800 cases of replacement food for storm victims in the county.

DAMAGE AND IMPACTS:

The following damage and impacts have been reported to the EMD/MSP from affected counties and local jurisdictions:

Summary of Preliminary Damage and Impacts

Jurisdiction	Deaths	Injuries	Homes Damaged	Homes Destroyed	Businesses Damaged	Businesses Destroyed	Local Declaration	Public Damage
City of Allen Park	0	0	500	0	20	0	YES	?
Barry Co	0	0	180	0	0	0	NO	?
Berrien Co	1	14	215	1	24	0	YES	YES
Cass Co	0	0	15-20	0	0	0	NO	?
City of Dearborn Hts	0	0	100	0	0	0	YES	?
Eaton Co	0	0	-	-	-	-	NO	?
City of Ecorse	-	-	-	-	-	-	YES	?
Ingham Co	1	2	600	0	1	1	NO	YES
City of Ionia	-	-	20	-	-	-	YES	YES
Ionia Co	0	0	20	0	10	0	YES	YES
Jackson Co	0	0	5	0	0	0	NO	?
City of Lansing	0	0	160	0	0	0	NO	YES
Livingston Co**	0	0	25	0	0	0	YES	?
Macomb Co	0	0	491	2	21	0	YES	YES
Newaygo Co	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	None
City of Port Huron	0	0	72	0	0	0	NO	YES
City of Romulus	0	0	2,000	0	12	0	NO	?
Saginaw Co	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	YES
Sanilac Co	0	0	70	0	0	0	NO	?
St Clair Co	0	0	326	-	-	-	NO	YES
St Joseph Co	2	4	3	1	3	-	YES*	YES
City of Sterling Heights	0	0	1	0	0	0	NO	NO
Oakland Co**	0	0	368	0	22	0	YES	YES
TOTALS:	4	20	5,176	4	113	1	10 jurisdictions	11 jurisdictions

*St. Joseph County initially declared for storm damage; however, this local declaration was later cancelled.

**Livingston Co declared a local state of emergency for Hamburg and Green Oak Townships; Waterford Township in Oakland declared a local state of emergency.

Electrical Power Disruptions

Consumers Energy reported that more than 247,000 customers were without power as a result of the May 21 and 22 storms – the 10th highest total in Consumers Energy history – with 7,100 still without service as of Tuesday afternoon (no update for Wednesday 5/26/04). DTE Energy had 236,000 customers without power over the weekend, with 3,600 still without service on Tuesday afternoon (no update for Wednesday 5/26/04). About 80,000 American Electric Power customers in southwest Michigan lost power during the storms. As of the afternoon of Wednesday 5/26/04, about 2,500 customers are still without power in the St. Joseph service area and about 450 customers in the Three Rivers service area.

Roads Affected

Most local roads in the affected area that were flooded have been re-opened.

Tornado Damage

Tornadoes touched down on Sunday afternoon (May 23) near the cities of Williamston (Ingham County) and Montrose (Genesee County). No reports of significant damage.

Significant Business Damage

Based on reports that have been received by local governments at this time, 104 businesses from 7 jurisdictions have sustained damage. The City of Benton Harbor (Berrien County) sustained at least \$800,000 in damage to businesses (per the City Manager).

Impacts on the Elderly

In the City of Utica, about 80 elderly residents from the Riverside 175 senior complex were evacuated by fire fighters on Sunday (May 23) when the Clinton River went over its banks. The residents spent the night with relatives or were sheltered at a nearby church.

Environmental Concerns

Wastewater treatment overflows have been reported in the following cities:

Ann Arbor, Almont, Bay County, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Buena Vista Township, Cassopolis, Chesaning, Davison, Detroit, Durand, East Lansing, Essexville, Frasier, Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids, Lathrop, Manistee, Marysville, Millington, Plainwell, Port Huron, Saginaw, Saginaw Township, Troy, and Waterford.

These overflows have sent diluted raw sewage into streams and rivers. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is monitoring this situation.

Local Jurisdiction Reports.

City of Allen Park

Flooding has damaged at least 500 homes and 20 businesses in the City of Allen Park. The city declared a local state of emergency on May 24.

Barry County

Barry County reports 180 homes damaged and 200 families displaced by flooding. The majority of the displaced families are in two mobile home parks in Hastings Township, adjacent to the Thornapple River. The county is also reporting minor damage to the Nashville Dam.

Berrien County

A severe storm on May 20 resulted in wind speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour, which left over 80,000 American Electric Power customers without power and caused extensive property damage and debris in 23 affected local communities and townships. The Benton Harbor water treatment plant lost power on May 21, forcing the city to issue a boil water order for local residents. Power was restored to the plant late in the afternoon of May 22, but not all pumping stations were restored to full power. The boil water order was lifted as of 1:00 PM Wednesday, May 26. All Benton Harbor schools, closed to students until the boil water order was lifted, are expected to reopen today.

On May 27, the County submitted an updated damage assessment report which indicated \$577,676 in public damages, 245 damaged homes and two destroyed homes, and 24 damaged businesses. Debris removal efforts continue in many areas. All major and minor roadways are now open.

Through Wednesday, May 26, the Berrien County FIA Office has processed 2,800 cases of replacement food for storm victims in the county.

Cass County

Cass County reports that 15-20 homes – primarily in the western part of the county – incurred storm damage. Most of the damage was the result of downed tree limbs on homes. Many power lines in the county incurred extensive damage due to high winds. The Cass County Road Commission is still having difficulty clearing debris from county roads, though state highways have been largely cleared.

City of Dearborn Heights

Flooding has damaged at least 100 homes. The city declared a local state of emergency on May 21.

Eaton County

Flooding has submerged 23 county roads, with two washed out. An unknown number of basements have been flooded as well. A natural gas leak occurred in Sunfield on Sunday (May 23) as a result of a lightning strike, but that has since been repaired.

City of Ecorse

The City of Ecorse reports homes and businesses damaged by flooding.

Genesee County

Flooding is reported throughout Genesee County, with several subdivisions being cut off by floodwaters. However, damage assessments are still being conducted so the exact number of structures affected has yet to be determined.

Hamburg Township and Green Oak Township (Livingston County)

Major flooding of the Huron River floodplain occurred adjacent the Huron River, Ore Lake and Little Ore Lake shorelines. Many cottage-style homes lie within the A3 and A2 flood plains and water levels have risen to 26” inside homes. Flood waters engulfed grinder pumps (used for sewage sanitation) resulting in release of effluent into the floodwaters. Privately owned wells are becoming contaminated. On Tuesday evening (May 25), Hamburg Township officials began voluntary evacuations for about 200 homes near Ore Lake. The National Weather Service estimates that it would take up to 10 days for the lake level to fall below flood stage.

The high water level in the culvert under the bridge on Riverside Drive is of concern and the ability of the bridge to withstand the flooding stresses is under evaluation. The Huron River is above flood stage and continues to rise. A local state of emergency was declared on May 25.

Ingham County

Flooding has caused approximately \$200,000 damage to an elementary school in the Leslie Public School District. The City of Lansing is experiencing residential flooding, mainly in the vicinity of Pennsylvania Avenue, near the confluence of the Red Cedar River and Grand River. Minor flooding also occurred in the basement of the Intramural West Building on the campus of Michigan State University.

City of Ionia

Floodwaters of the Grand River in the city of Ionia are decreasing. Businesses on Steel Street are reopening with little or no damage. The flooding could potentially affect a manufacturing plant and several other businesses in the city. In addition, at least 20 homes in the city and an additional 136 homes in Ionia and Easton Townships could be affected. The city's wastewater treatment plant and one lift station are also at risk. 7,500 sandbags have been used to protect various public facilities in the city. 7,000 reserve sandbags have been filled by a local effort.

Ionia County

Flooding in Ionia County has damaged 20 homes and 10 businesses to date. Ionia County declared a local state of emergency on May 24 due to the flooding. The Grand River has crested in the county, and floodwaters are receding. No new information has been reported on the safety of the Lyons Dam due to the high water. There has been considerable damage to the Ionia County fairgrounds in the City of Ionia, as the facility was inundated. The County has yet to submit a damage assessment report to the EMD/MSP. (See separate report for the City of Ionia.)

Jackson County

Flooding has damaged 5 homes in various locations of the county. Severe winds also downed many power lines, which caused power outages.

Livingston County

Severe flooding in Hamburg Township and Green Oak Township damaged 25 homes and 50 individuals needed shelter. (See separate report for Hamburg and Green Oak Townships.) The county is requesting assistance from the US Army Corps of Engineers for sandbag protection efforts in Hamburg Township.

Kent County

The county has yet to submit any reports of damage, but considerable flooding adjacent to the Grand River has taken place from May 22 through today. According to the National Weather Service, major flooding is occurring in areas of Comstock Park, with river levels at four feet above flood stage. The City of Grand Rapids is experiencing minor basement flooding at this time. Damage estimates will likely be slow to arrive to the EMD/MSP with floodwaters remaining above flood stage into this weekend.

Macomb County

The county declared a local state of emergency on May 23 and submitted a detailed damage assessment report today. The county reports that the Moravian Drive Bridge in Clinton Township is destroyed, with 34 other county bridges damaged. Repair estimates for the Moravian Bridge are \$3.9 million. Total road and bridge damages (covering 60 miles of damaged roads) are estimated at \$9.74 million. The flooding destroyed two homes and damaged another 493. Twenty-one businesses also incurred flooding damage.

In addition, all six of Macomb County's public beaches are now closed and may remain closed during the Memorial Day weekend due to sewer overflows that occurred earlier this week from the recent heavy rains and storms. The E.coli bacteria levels at some beaches were 23 times the level that is considered safe for human contact. Test results are expected today (May 27) to determine whether the beaches can reopen during the holiday weekend.

Newaygo County

Newaygo County reports that Consumers Energy has enacted their emergency plan for the Croton Dam on the Muskegon River. The dam is secure, but homes in some low lying areas may have flooding.

Ottawa County

The county has yet to report any flooding or storm damage, but the National Weather Service reports major flooding in Robinson Township, with 19 homes damaged on Vanlopik Drive. Damage assessments will likely take several days to compile, as floodwaters are not expected to recede until Monday.

City of Port Huron

The City of Port Huron submitted a damage assessment report to the EMD/MSP on May 26. Port Huron reports flood damage to 72 homes and some public damage to the wastewater treatment plant and two combined sewer mains. The wastewater treatment plant incurred damage due to a major influx of sand entering the holding tank. The failure of one of the sewer lines caused flooding in 30 homes, with four feet of contaminated water. Public damage is estimated at \$80,600.

City of Romulus

The City of Romulus reported on May 20 that 2,000+ homes and 12 businesses have been damaged by flooding and severe winds. The flooding and storms also caused some damage to public buildings and electric power infrastructure. Romulus has not provided additional information since that original report.

St. Joseph County

Severe storms in St. Joseph County on May 21 caused 2 deaths and 4 injuries, damaged three homes and three businesses, and destroyed one home. The county declared a local state of emergency on May 21, but cancelled the declaration on May 23. Township assessment teams are continuing to compile information, but there have been no additional reports sent to the EMD/MSP.

Shiawassee County

The county has not submitted an assessment report, but the county reports that there is a possibility of a dam failure in the City of Corunna. This situation is being investigated by the county and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

St. Clair County

The county reports that 326 homes were damaged by flooding, totaling approximately \$1.1 million in damage. In addition, three bridges incurred \$351,000 in damage. Total public damage is estimated at \$516,800.

Sanilac County

Flooding in the City of Croswell damaged 70 homes.

Wayne County

The county has not yet submitted an assessment report, but newspaper accounts of the damage within the county indicate that upwards of 1,000 homes may have been flooded. In the City of Detroit, 19 public

schools were shut down Wednesday (May 26) because of a lack of power. Eight of those schools had been without electrical power for at least 2 ½ days. By Wednesday afternoon, eight of the 19 schools had power restored. The rest were scheduled to be back on line today.

On Monday (May 24), 35 Detroit schools were closed due to power outages, and 46 schools were closed on Tuesday (May 25).

Saginaw County

A section of the Flint River Dike is breaking, causing flooding of adjacent farm fields. However, approximately 50 homes are close to the area currently being flooded.

Oakland County

Oakland County reports a total of \$191,908 in public damage. In addition, the county has 368 homes and 22 businesses that incurred flood damage. Waterford Township was hit particularly hard and declared a local state of emergency on May 25 (but not submitted to the EMD/MSP until May 27).

FLOOD DAMAGE PHOTOS

(Local responders attempt to plug the leak in the Flint River Dike.)



FLOOD DAMAGE PHOTOS

(Corunna – Owosso Flooding on May 27, 2004.)



(Flooded campground – Michigan Department of Natural Resources.)



ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORTS WILL BE DEVELOPED AS NEW OR UPDATED INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.